IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a heterologous nucleotide sequence, a single retroviral long terminal repeat (LTR), a packaging signal, a rev responsive element, a polypurine tract, a eukaryotic promoter, a primer binding site, a bacterial origin of replication and a bacterial selection marker, and wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a *loxP* site.

6. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, further comprising a central polypurine tract.

7. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, further comprising a post-transcriptional regulatory element.

8. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5.

9. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein enhancer and promoter sequences of the U3 region of the LTR are deleted and minimal sequences required for integration at the 5' end of the LTR are not deleted and the *LoxP* site is not deleted.

10. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 9<u>5</u>, wherein the portion of the U3 region that has been deleted is replaced with an inducible promoter.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.

13. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a 5' retroviral LTR and a 3' retroviral LTR, a heterologous nucleotide sequence, a packaging signal, a rev responsive element, a polypurine tract, a eukaryotic promoter, a primer binding site, a bacterial origin of replication and a bacterial selection marker, wherein the bacterial origin of replication and bacterial selection marker are located between the two LTRs, and wherein the U3 region of the 3' LTR comprises a *loxP* site.

14. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, further comprising a central polypurine tract.

15. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, further comprising a post-transcriptional regulatory element.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim ~~16~~13, wherein the portion of the U3 region that has been deleted is replaced with an inducible promoter.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.

20. (Currently amended) A method of producing a single-LTR circular ~~retroviral~~HIV-1 form plasmid, comprising:

a. introducing a shuttle vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 into a eukaryotic cell;

b. extracting non-integrated DNA from the eukaryotic cell;

c. transforming a bacterial cell with the DNA of step (b);

d. selecting a bacterial cell showing expression of a selection marker; and

isolating a single-LTR circular ~~retroviral~~HIV-1 form plasmid from the bacterial cell.

21. (Previously presented) A method of making a retroviral vector particle, comprising:
a) introducing the vector of claim 8 into a retroviral packaging cell in medium, said packaging cell comprising nucleotide sequences encoding rev, gag/pol and env proteins but lacking packaging sequences; and
b) collecting retroviral vector particles from the medium.

22. (Previously presented) A method of producing a retroviral expression vector, comprising cloning the nucleic acid of claim 5 into a non-retroviral expression vector.

23. (Previously presented) The retroviral expression vector produced by the method of claim 22.

24-29. (Canceled).